Accurately Assigning Costs for Inputs Related to Project Sustainability within the Logic Model

Beyond defining the overall outcome and impact timeline and committing to deliverables within the project duration, it is crucial for social enterprises and stakeholders to clearly understand the specific interventions and associated costs necessary to establish a realistic budget that supports sustainability.

Incorporating provisions for the following activities and cost elements into the project design is essential for maintaining the intervention's longevity and attracting future investment. These cost components include:

i. **Listing Costs Affecting Project Funding** – It is important to have a detailed breakdown of expenses related to registering and listing projects within the SSE. Clearly specifying which portion of these costs will be covered by social enterprises and which by funders or investors promotes transparency and facilitates smoother registration and listing processes.

ii. **Pre-project Implementation Fund** – This fund supports preparatory activities, establishing a strong foundation for effective project execution.

iii. **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Knowledge Management Fund** – Given the collaborative nature of the social sector, the M&E budget should explicitly support cross-learning among project stakeholders. Additionally, costs for knowledge management must be included to enable social enterprises to enhance capacity for shared learning, collaborative development, and the creation of a comprehensive impact narrative (social, environmental, cultural) grounded in the Exchange.

iv. **Exit/Takeover Protocol Fund** – In line with the withdrawal protocol, the post-mid-term phase of the project involves thorough planning with stakeholders and beneficiary communities. This process aims to leverage the assets, capacities, partnerships, networks, and influence developed during the project to sustain its impact. Toward the project's conclusion, a detailed Exit/Takeover Plan is formulated with stakeholder involvement, formalizing co-commitment mechanisms to institutionalize processes and systems. This plan is designed to ensure the project's impact endures beyond its official timeline.

Source: NISM Series XXIII: Social Impact Assessors Certification Examination workbook

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